

EYES & EYES

DRAWER

3A APPEARANCE

187 1143

A faint, light-colored watermark of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. is visible in the background. The memorial is a large, neoclassical structure with a prominent Corinthian colonnade and a central dome. The text is overlaid on this image.

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<http://archive.org/details/abrahamlincolnxxx00linc>

# Abraham Lincoln's Appearance

## Eyes and Eyeglasses

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

...."Yes, I sold Abraham Lincoln his first pair of spectacles," said a veteran oculist of Chicago to a reporter of the Chicago *Tribune* the other day. "It was about the time of the legislature of 1854, when he was a lawyer in Springfield. Some editor down there paid me \$15 to make Mr. Lincoln a pair of gold spectacles; and those were the first he ever wore. When he was elected President I made him three pairs, one of gold and two of steel. I knew the Lincoln family pretty well, and I straightened Bob's eyes for him when he was a little fellow. He was born cross-eyed, you know."

1883

Chicago Tribune?

# The · Eyes · of · Lincoln



**S**ad eyes that were patient and tender, sad eyes, that were steadfast and true, and warm with the unchanging splendor of courage, no ills could subdue! Eyes dark with the dread of the morrow, and woe for the day that was gone, the sleepless companions of sorrow, the watchers that witnessed the dawn. Eyes tired from the clamor and goading and dim from the stress of the years, and hollowed by pain and foreboding, and strained by repression of tears. Sad eyes that were wearied and blighted, by visions and sieges and wars, now watch o'er a country united from the luminous slopes of the stars!

-Walt Mason

### W a l t M a s o n

**S**AD EYES, that were patient and tender, sad eyes, that were steadfast and true, and warm with the unchanging splendor of courage no ills could subdue! Eyes dark with the dread of the morrow, and woe for the day that was gone, the sleepless companions of sorrow, the watchers that witnessed the dawn. Eyes tired from the clamor and goading, and dim from the stress of the years, and hollowed by pain and foreboding, and strained by repression of tears. Sad eyes that were wearied and blighted, by visions of sieges and wars, now watch o'er a country united from the luminous slopes of the stars!

His first pair of spectacles, which he purchased in a small shop in Blooming-ton, with the remark that he "had got to be forty-seven years old and kinder need-ed them," cost him thirty-seven and a half cents. Two h<sub>l</sub> w<sub>l</sub> 37 1/2 c<sub>l</sub> 32

# LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor.  
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

No. 270

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

June 11, 1934

## A PERSONAL DESCRIPTION OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

It is doubtful if any public man changed more in appearance during a period of five years than Abraham Lincoln did during his administration as President. There was also a great change in his physique after he ceased to be a woodsman and became a lawyer. Even during the short time between his election and his inauguration the growing of a beard made a marked difference in his appearance.

When Abraham Lincoln prepared an autobiographical sketch for Fell at fifty years of age, he concluded his brief statement with this paragraph:

"If any personal description of me is thought desirable, it may be said, I am, in height, six feet, four inches, nearly; lean in flesh, weighing on an average, one hundred and eighty pounds; dark complexion, with coarse black hair, and grey eyes—no other marks or brands recollect." "If any personal description of me is thought desirable, it may be said, I am, in height, six feet, four inches, nearly; lean in flesh, weighing on an average, one hundred and eighty pounds; dark complexion, with coarse black hair, and grey eyes—no other marks or brands recollect."

With his own personal description as a nucleus we are now able to supplement this sketch with a much more detailed study of how he looked.

### Height

No other single physical characteristic set Lincoln apart from other men with such contrast as his extraordinary height. He said he was "six feet four inches, nearly." One observer remarked that "His great height was conspicuous even in a crowd of goodly men and lifted him fully in view as he walked."

It is difficult to exaggerate Lincoln's tallness which made him loom above other men. One description of him emphasizes the fact that he was six feet four inches in his stockings. Several contemporaries are in agreement that when enumerating a great thought he had the ability of stretching up to a height beyond his usual structure; vertical elasticity it is called. Lincoln was the tallest of our presidents.

### Frame

We would expect one so tall to be long of limb. Both his legs and arms were abnormally long and in undue proportion to his body. When seated in a chair he did not appear to be much taller than other men. His hands were large, measuring ten inches following the glove fitter's process of determining size. We are not left in ignorance about the size and shape of his hands as casts have been made from life of both his left and right hands. One writer spoke of his arm as a long, swinging one; and another called it the arm of a Hoosier who could "whip his weight in wildcats." His feet were also large and according to his shoemaker the right foot was twelve and one-quarter

inches long and the left one twelve inches.

We would also expect his chest to be thin and narrow when compared with his great height, although Herndon's statement that he was so thin through the chest to the back and so narrow through the shoulders that he was a consumptive type should not be taken too literally. Lincoln's own statement that at fifty he was lean in flesh but weighed on an average of one hundred and eighty pounds indicates that he was a thin, wiry, sinewy man.

### Carriage

There has been much difference of opinion about his bearing, one observer stating that "unlike most very tall men he is lithe and agile and quick in all his movements." Herndon, however, claims that "when he walked he moved cautiously but firmly. He walked with even tread the inner sides of his feet being parallel. He put the whole foot flat down on the ground at once, not landing on the heel; he likewise lifted his foot all at once not rising from the toe and hence he had no spring in his walk."

An Englishman who observed Lincoln said that he walked slow "like many other thoughtful men—Wordsworth and Napoleon for example—keeping his head inclined forward and downward." It must be admitted that he did not appear to advantage when walking.

### Head

One student, a sculptor who made a bust of Lincoln, claimed that his head was neither Greek nor Roman nor Celt, concluding that "there were few such men in the world and where they came from originally is not known."

Nicolay referred to Lincoln's head as large with high crown of skull. Another contemporary said "his forehead is high and full and swells out grandly." The size of his hat has been given as seven and one-eighth and seven and one-quarter.

### Hair

Lincoln said that he had "coarse black hair." It was thick and bushy and luxuriant, falling carelessly but not ungracefully around his well-formed head. One of Lincoln's visitors at Springfield who saw him after he reached Washington claimed "He had a fine suit of hair until the barbers at Washington attended to his toilet." At fifty years of age his raven black hair had not started to turn gray.

### Eyes

Lincoln's dark grey eyes have been the subject of many monographs and poems. A sculptor describes them as follows:

"His eyes are deep set and when his face is reposing are not remarkable for brightness, but kindle with his thoughts and beam with great expression. His eyebrows are heavy and move almost incessantly as he becomes animated."

One author went to the trouble to compile a list of the following descriptive phrases referring to Lincoln's eyes.

"Bright dreamy eyes that seem to gaze through you without looking at you"; "Patient, loving eyes"; "The kindest eyes ever placed in mortal head"; "His eyes had an expression impossible to describe, as though they lay in deep caverns, ready to spring out at an instant call"; "A sad, preoccupied, far-away look, so intense that he seemed to be in a trance"; "Inexpressible sadness in his eyes, with a far-away look, as if they were searching for something they had seen long, long years ago"; "Melancholy eyes that seemed to wander far away."

### Complexion

One of the most unfavorable characteristics of Lincoln's personal appearance was his complexion. His face had a "battered and bronzed look without being hard." To another observer his cheeks seemed to be leathery and there was a sallowness which prevented any show of the usual flesh color. His face is described as "half Roman, half Indian, so washed by climate and so seared by life's struggles."

### Countenance

Lincoln's nose was especially prominent. It is described as large, long, fleshy, blunt, and a little awry towards the right eye. His ears were large but they most certainly did not stick out "at almost right angles from his head" as alleged by Herndon.

Lincoln had a large mouth. The upper lip was quite thin while the lower lip was thick, hanging, and undervured. His chin was slightly upturned. He had an Adam's apple that was quite prominent, and on the right side of his face not far from his mouth a conspicuous mole.

On November 14, 1860, an excellent description of Lincoln appeared from which the following excerpt is taken: "The lower part of his face is strongly marked by long angular jaws. His prominent cheek-bones and the hollowness of his cheeks give him a somewhat haggard look, but as he is now cultivating whiskers and a beard, his appearance in that respect will soon be improved."

He was growing a beard eight days after the election and it is likely he never shaved after he became president.

# The EPWORTH HERALD

## A JOURNAL FOR YOUTH



Photo by Clarence A. Purchase

### Lincoln's Eyes

By FRANKLIN K. LANE

"I NEVER pass through Chicago without visiting the statue of Lincoln by St. Gaudens and standing before it for a moment uncovered. It is to me all that America is, physically and spiritually.

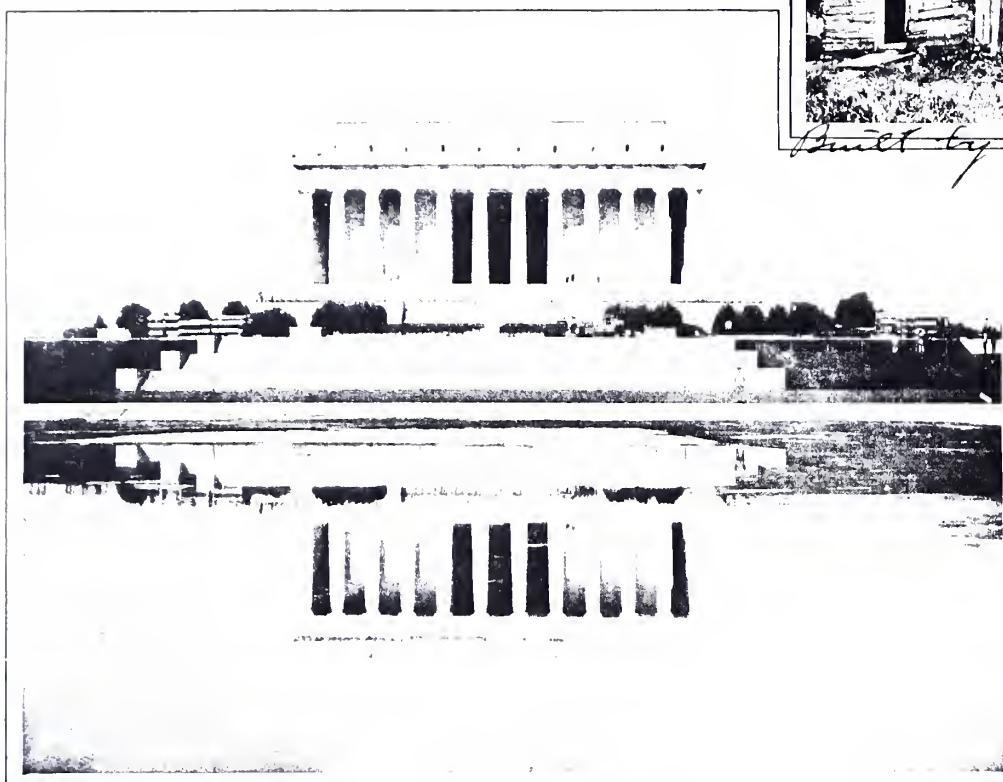
"I look at those long arms and long legs, large hands and feet, and I think that they represent the physical strength of this country, its power and its youthful awkwardness. Then I look up at the head and see qualities which have made the American—the strong chin, the noble brow, those sober and steadfast eyes.

"They were the eyes of one who saw with sympathy and interpreted with common sense. They were the eyes of earnest idealism limited and checked by the possible and practicable. They were the eyes of a truly humble spirit, whose ambition was not a love for power but a desire to be supremely useful. They were eyes of compassion and mercy and a deep understanding. They saw far more than they looked at. They believed in far more than they saw. They loved men not for what they were but for what they might become. They were patient eyes, eyes that could wait and wait, and live on in the faith that the right would win. They were eyes which challenged the nobler things in men and brought out the hidden largeness. They were humorous eyes that saw things in their true proportions and in their relationships. They looked through cant and pretense and the great and little vanities of great and little men. They were the eyes of an unflinching courage and an unfaltering faith rising out of a sincere dependence upon the Master of the universe.

"To believe in Lincoln is to learn to look through Lincoln's eyes."

# LINCOLN'S EYES

By Franklin K. Lane



© Simmons Photo News

I NEVER pass through Chicago without visiting the statue of Lincoln by St. Gaudens and standing before it for a moment uncovered. It is to me all that America is, physically and spiritually. I look at those long arms and long legs, large hands and feet, and I think that they represent the physical strength of this new country, its power and its youthful awkwardness. Then I look up at the head and see qualities which have made the American—the strong chin, the noble brow, those sober and steadfast eyes. They were the eyes of one who saw with sympathy and interpreted with common sense. They were the eyes of earnest idealism limited and checked by the possible and the practicable. They were the eyes of a truly humble spirit, whose ambition was not a love for power but a desire to be supremely useful. They were eyes of compassion and mercy and a deep understanding.

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\* \* \*

Abraham Lincoln said he noticed that it was the rafts on the Mississippi River that went down stream, but it took a steamboat to go up.

House at Wakefield, Virginia, where George Washington, first President of the United States, was born February 22, 1732



### **Lincoln's Eyes**

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—Franklin K. Lane.

From the book, "Letters of Franklin K. Lane"

Lincoln haunted Lane's imagination, the humor, friendliness, loneliness, and greatness of the man. This--written for no formal occasion but to express part of his feeling--has found its way to others who, too, reverence the great American.

### Lincoln's Eyes

I never pass through Chicago without visiting the statue of Lincoln by St. Gaudens and standing before it for a moment uncovered. It is to me all that America is, physically and spiritually. I look at those long arms and long legs, large hands and feet, and I think that they represent the physical strength of this country, its power and its youthful awkwardness. Then I look up at the head and see qualities which have made the American--the strong chin, the noble brow, those sober and steadfast eyes. They were the eyes of one who saw with sympathy and interpreted with common sense. They were the eyes of earnest idealism limited and checked by the possible and the practicable. They were the eyes of a truly humble spirit, whose ambition was not a love for power but a desire to be supremely useful. They were eyes of compassion and mercy and a deep understanding. They saw far more than they looked at. They believed in far more than they saw. They moved men not for what they were but for what they might become. They were patient eyes, eyes that could wait and wait and live on in the faith that right would win. They were eyes which challenged the nobler things in men and brought out the hidden largeness. They were humorous eyes that saw things in their true proportions and in their real relationships. They looked through cant and pretense and the great and little vanities of great and little men. They were the eyes of an unflinching courage and an unfaltering faith rising out of a sincere dependence upon the Master of the Universe. To believe in Lincoln is to learn to look through Lincoln's eyes.

Thinking this may be of some interest to you

7.7. McMillan

## Abraham Lincoln's First Pair of Glasses <sup>ac.</sup>

The recent occurrence of Lincoln's birthday called to mind the story by H. H. Slawson which appeared several years ago in a British optical magazine. It tells of the Great Emancipator's visual difficulties and first pair of glasses. Thinking that it might prove interesting, it is reprinted here. It discloses how meager were the middle 19th century facilities for proper eyecare.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN paid 37½ cents for his first pair of spectacles and, while it may look as if he was trying to save money, the plain truth of the matter is that he probably did not know of any better glasses.

In the days before bifocals and modern progress in eyecare, a pair of spectacles was to Lincoln, as they were to every one else, just a pair of "specs."

Lincoln's purchase was made on May 28, 1856, in "a very diminutive jewelry shop" in Bloomington, Ill., and from the account of the incident which has come down through the years, the investment seems to have been made casually as one buys a handkerchief or a collar today.

It was while on his way to a railway station with a youthful crony, to greet some arrivals on the train from Chicago, that the glasses were bought. To Henry Clay Whitney, an Illinois lawyer, we are indebted for the details of the transaction.

Perhaps a bit of background is needed to appreciate fully the very personal revelation which Whitney gives of Lincoln's effort to improve his eyesight. As a young man of 21, Whitney, in 1854, had hung out his shingle in Urbana, Ill. Traveling the central Illinois circuit, he soon encountered Lincoln and immediately made the future president his hero. Thirty years after Lincoln's death, Whitney set down his recollections.

Lincoln and Whitney had come to Bloomington to participate in a convention which had been called in an effort to organize a new political party. In the Illinois corn belt city had gathered representatives of the growing opposition to the slavery extension programme.

Bitter feeling over the Kansas-Nebraska Statehood problem prevailed. May 22, just a week before the convention opened, Senator Charles Sumner had been beaten into insensibility in the Senate Chamber at Washington by the fiery South Carolinian, Preston S. Brooks. To Lincoln the Bloomington convention leaders assigned the task of fusing this resentment into an effective political instrument. He did it in his famous "Lost Speech."

But in the midst of intense clamour and strained public feeling, Lincoln took time out to buy himself

his first pair of eyeglasses.

When Lincoln and Whitney arrived in Bloomington on the morning of May 28, the day before the convention was to open, they repaired to the home of a mutual friend, David Davis, where they lodged during the meeting. But here, perhaps, it is well to let Lincoln's "Boswell" take up the story.

"After dinner," wrote Whitney, "Lincoln proposed that I should go with him to the Chicago & Alton depot to see who might arrive from Chicago. On our way, Lincoln stopped at a very diminutive jewelry shop where he bought his first pair of spectacles for 37½ cents, as I now recall it. He then remarked to me that he had got to be 47 years old and 'kinder needed them.'"

That seems to be about all that Whitney can tell us about the purchase of the spectacles. In reading the Lincoln literature, however, we find references to several incidents in which the spectacles figured.

Two years after he first began using glasses, Lincoln was addressing an audience from the balcony of the old Tremont House in Chicago. It was the evening of July 10, 1858. Stephen A. Douglas had spoken there the night before. Lincoln was using the opportunity to reply to some of the senator's arguments. In the course of his remarks, Lincoln said:

"I pointed out in a speech a year ago, a copy of which I hold in my hand now, that no fair chance was to be given to the people."

"Read it! read it!" some one in the audience shouted, as reported in the Chicago papers. Lincoln rejected the suggestion, saying with typical whimsy:

"Gentlemen, reading from speeches is a very tedious business, particularly for an old man who has to put on spectacles, and more so if the man is so tall that he has to bend over to the light."

At this point the papers reported "Laughter."

A few weeks later, one catches another hint that Lincoln's eyes were bothering him. It was at Ottawa, Ill., August 21, 1858, in the first of the famous series of debates between Lincoln and Douglas. The latter had spoken and Lincoln rose to reply. From a speech made at Peoria four years prior he read a long extract, but evidently had difficulty in seeing the words.

"Put on your specs," a man in the crowd shouted, as reported in the press.

"Yes sir, I am obliged to do so," Lincoln responded. "I am no longer a young man."

And again the crowd "laughed."

But the modern optical man can understand that the situation was not funny for Lincoln.

# Ocular Defects

## IN SIXTY THOUSAND SELECTEES

Condensed from an article in the  
Archives of Ophthalmology

CAPTAIN ARTHUR H. DOWNING  
Medical Corps, Army of the United States

THE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION of selectees to determine acceptability for induction into the armed forces affords a unique opportunity for estimating the incidence of various ophthalmic conditions in a comparatively large and statistically significant group of men. This study consists of an analysis of the results of the examination of 60,000 men, a consecutive series, at an armed forces induction station.

### MATERIAL AND METHOD

The men examined represented an age group of from 18 to 38 years, together with a few enlistees age 17 and selectees between 38 and 45 years of age. Thus, ophthalmic conditions peculiar to childhood, puberty and senescence were not encountered. In addition, preliminary "screening" examinations, performed by physicians at the various local selective boards, eliminated from the group some who were obviously visually unfit.

Of the 60,000 men in this series, 5,712 (9.5 per cent) were found to have ophthalmic defects. Data were accumulated in the course of the complete physical examination for induction, and not from a mere analysis of records.

The examination of each man was made methodically and according to a definite plan. The visual acuity of each eye was tested separately, with and without glasses.

When any selectee required more time for ophthalmologic investigation than could be taken at the original examination, he was detained until an adequate study of the ocular abnormality could be made.

### RESULTS OF ANALYSIS

**Refractive Errors**—Selectees with uncorrected visual acuity below 20/200 due to refractive errors totaled 2,032, or 3.4 per cent of the entire series (Table 1).

Myopia, with and without associated astigmatism, was the cause in 93 per cent of cases of defective vision due to refractive errors. The low figures for hypermetropic errors are probably due to the relatively high accommodative power present in persons of this age group.

Table 1—Incidence of Refractive Errors in a Series of 60,000 Selectees

	Total No.	Ratio
Myopia, below 20/200 to 20/400	1,525	1:40
Myopia, below 20/400	362	1:166
Myopia, high, unilateral	48	1:250
Hypermetropia, below 20/200 to 20/400	71	1:845
Hypermetropia, below 20/400	26	1:2,305
	2,032	1:30

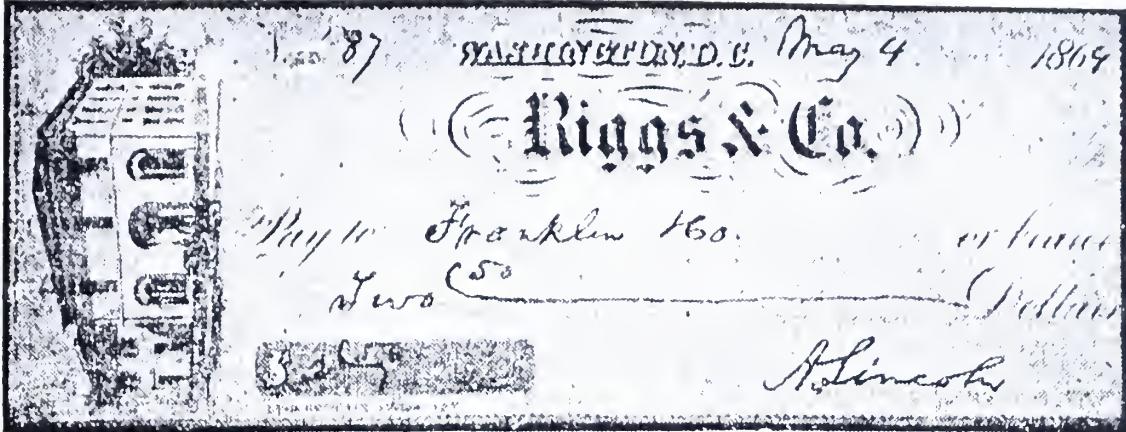
Forty-eight cases of high unilateral myopia were encountered. This comparatively infrequent condition is not strictly refractive but is included in this category. In all 48 cases one eye was essentially normal whereas the fellow eye was highly myopic, to the extent of 10 D. or more, and usually gave the appearance of unilateral exophthalmos.

**Strabismus**—Of the total number of men examined, 1,245, or 2 per cent, had manifest strabismus (Table 2). The number of cases of convergent types was 855, and the number of cases of divergent types was 389. Amblyopia ex anopsia was an associated condition in 1,066 of the 1,245 cases. Further, amblyopia ex anopsia was encountered much more frequently in conjunction with convergent strabismus than with divergent strabismus; it was an associated condition in 90 per cent of the cases of esotropia, whereas it was present in only 60 per cent of the cases of exotropia.

Table 2—Number of Selectees with Strabismus in Series of 60,000

	Total No.	Ratio
Esotropia, with amblyopia	770	1:78
Esotropia, without amblyopia	85	1:106
Exotropia, with amblyopia	296	1:202
Exotropia, without amblyopia	93	1:646
Right hypertropia	1	
	1,245	1:48

In this series, two factors bear on the incidence of strabismus. First, only cases of manifest strabismus are included. Thus, cases in which treatment had been effective either by prescription of glasses or by operative intervention and cases in which the deviation had disappeared spontaneously as the patient reached adulthood are not classified here. Second, as previously stated, complete examination to determine the exact degree of ocular muscle balance was



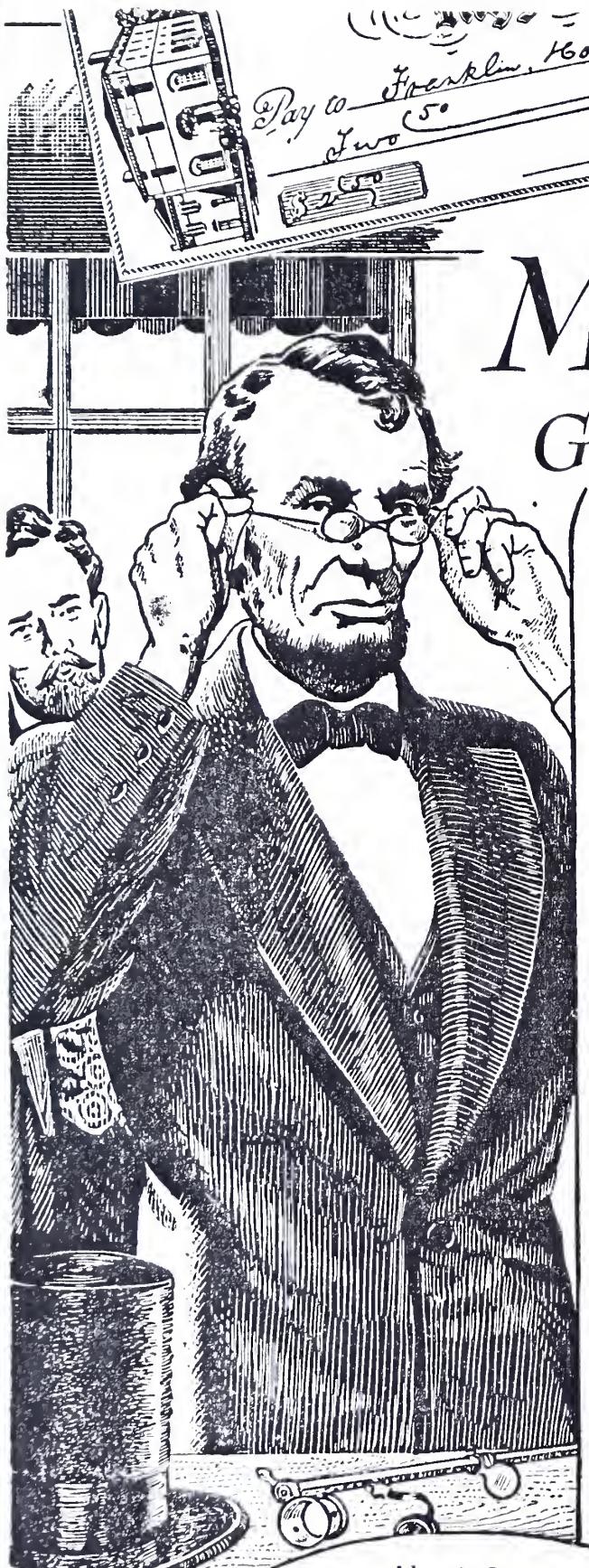
Less than a year before Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, he bought a pair of spectacles from the Franklin Optical company, of Washington, D. C., for which he gave his check for \$2.50 to Jules Heilprin, the proprietor. He also presented Mr. Heilprin with a photograph of himself taken with his little son, "Tad."

Mr. Heilprin never cashed the check, and after Lincoln's death, had a limited number of copies made of both check and photograph. These he mounted and framed, giving them to a few of his special friends.

Last year while visiting in Washington, Mrs. Maude Black, of Detroit, was given by Mr. Heilprin's son the last remaining copy, the original of which is in his possession.

A facsimile of the check is shown herewith, and readers will find an excellent reproduction of the now famous photograph—which is particularly appropriate for Father and Son week.

Note—The above reproduction was published several years ago by the Detroit Free Press, to which publication credit should be given. The Mrs. M. Black mentioned is the L. Black Co., opticians, 1420 Woodward Ave. A copy of this check is exhibited each Feb. 12 in their window.—Editor.



Pay to Franklin, 160.  
Two 50  
or bearer  
Dollars  
Lincoln

LARGEST BANK IN THE  
NATION'S CAPITAL

# Mr. Lincoln Paid for his Glasses by Check . . .

... drawn on Riggs & Company, May 4, 1864. But the proprietor of the shop, sensing the President's greatness, never cashed the check and today it remains the prized possession of a grandson continuing the business.

Lincoln's spoken words, too, have been preserved through the years.

On February 27, 1860, in New York City, he counseled:

**"LET US HAVE FAITH THAT RIGHT  
MAKES MIGHT; AND IN THAT FAITH  
LET US TO THE END, DARE TO DO OUR  
DUTY AS WE UNDERSTAND IT."**

For all Americans, these resolute words hold new meaning today.

*The*  
**RIGGS**  
**NATIONAL BANK**  
*of WASHINGTON, D. C.*

Franklin & Company  
is still in business in Washington  
and is still a customer of  
The Riggs National Bank.

FOUNDED 1836 RESOURCES OVER \$300,000,000  
COMPLETE BANKING AND TRUST SERVICE

Member—Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

Member—Federal Home Loan Bank Board



## Abe's Own

CHICAGO — Abraham Lincoln's own eyeglasses are adjusted on a bust of the emancipator by Paul M. Angle, director of the Chicago Historical Society. The spectacles were bought by the society for \$275 from Oliver R. Barrett's Lincoln collection. — Wide World Photo.

THE INDIANAPOLIS NEWS

Friday, April 11, 1952

# CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NORTH AVENUE AT CLARK STREET • CHICAGO 14, ILLINOIS

MICHIGAN 2-4600



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*President*

August 3, 1953

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Hermon Dunlap Smith

Herbert Stuart Stone, Jr.

Theodore Tieken

Dr. Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Warren:

We know nothing about the Lincoln  
spectacles beyond what is to be found in the  
Barrett catalog. We bought them on faith.

Sincerely yours,

*Paul M. Angle*

100-11000-2  
1. 1st speech  
2. 2nd

# The Courier-Journal February 23, 1954

## READERS' POINT OF VIEW:

*To the Editor of The Courier-Journal:*

In the Courier-Journal February 12, two excellent photographs of Abraham Lincoln appeared with the statement in the "cut line" that they "were made from glass negatives discovered in 1952," thus inadvertently leaving the inference that these photographs had not been hitherto known or published. These pictures of Lincoln were made by Alexander Hesler at Springfield, Ill., Sunday, June 3, 1860, shortly after Lincoln's nomination for President and quite a number of prints were made from the original negatives prior to the time when they were irreparably broken in the mail in 1933.

For more than 25 years I have had both of these photographs in my collection, one of which was on display in the Kaufman-Straus show window in Louisville last summer during the playing of "The Tall Kentuckian." It is quite true, however, the photographs which were published in The Courier-Journal are from another set of negatives only recently discovered in Springfield.

I notice also the "cut line" states that "the eyeglass cord across the shirt front is said to have been for appearance only, since Lincoln did not wear glasses." I believe the following quotations from original sources will serve to correct this erroneous statement. On August 21, 1858, Lincoln had his first joint debate with Stephen A. Douglas at Ottawa, Ill. The stenographic report, which I have in my collection, relates the following incident which occurred when Lincoln began speaking:

Mr. Lincoln: "I hope you will permit me to read a part of a printed speech that I made at Peoria."

A Voice: "Put on your specs."

Mr. Lincoln: "Yes, Sir, I am obliged to do so. I as no longer a young man."

H. C. Whitney, in his very scarce "Life on the Circuit with Lincoln," says that on May 23, 1856, he went with Lincoln to Bloomington to attend the Anti-Nebraska convention where Lincoln made his famous "Lost Speech." He says further: "On our way, Lincoln stopped in a very diminutive jewelry shop where he bought his first pair of spectacles for 37½ cents, as I now recollect; and he then remarked to me that he had got to be 47 years old and 'kinder' needed them."

It thus appears from the records that when Hesler made these two photographs of Lincoln June 3, 1860, which show his "eyeglass cord," he had been wearing reading glasses since May 28, 1856. Therefore, it can hardly be said that he was wearing the cord merely as a matter of appearance.

WILLIAM H. TOWNSEND.

Lexington, Ky.

### Looks to Future Election

Senator Shaikun is tryin' out of an hour's mornin'

These representin' already socked " such as the should' off'

# OUR OPHTHALMIC HERITAGE



CHARLES SNYDER

Librarian, Lucien Howe Library of  
Ophthalmology, Harvard Medical  
School and the Massachusetts Eye  
and Ear Infirmary, Boston

*Foreword by* HENRY F. ALLEN, M.D.  
Associate Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology,  
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Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Boston;  
and Chief Editor, *Archives of Ophthalmology*, A.M.A.

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LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY

BOSTON

1967

## ABE'S EYES

**F**IVE months before he received the Republican nomination for the Presidency, Abraham Lincoln wrote, at the request of a campaign worker, an autobiographical sketch. In a few hundred words, not one of them superfluous, he told of his birth and birthplace, of his parents, of the migrations of his family, and of his schooling. He ended the sketch with a description of himself: "I am, in height 6 feet 4 inches, nearly lean in flesh, on an average 180 pounds, dark complexion with coarse dark hair, and gray eyes—no other marks or brands recollected."

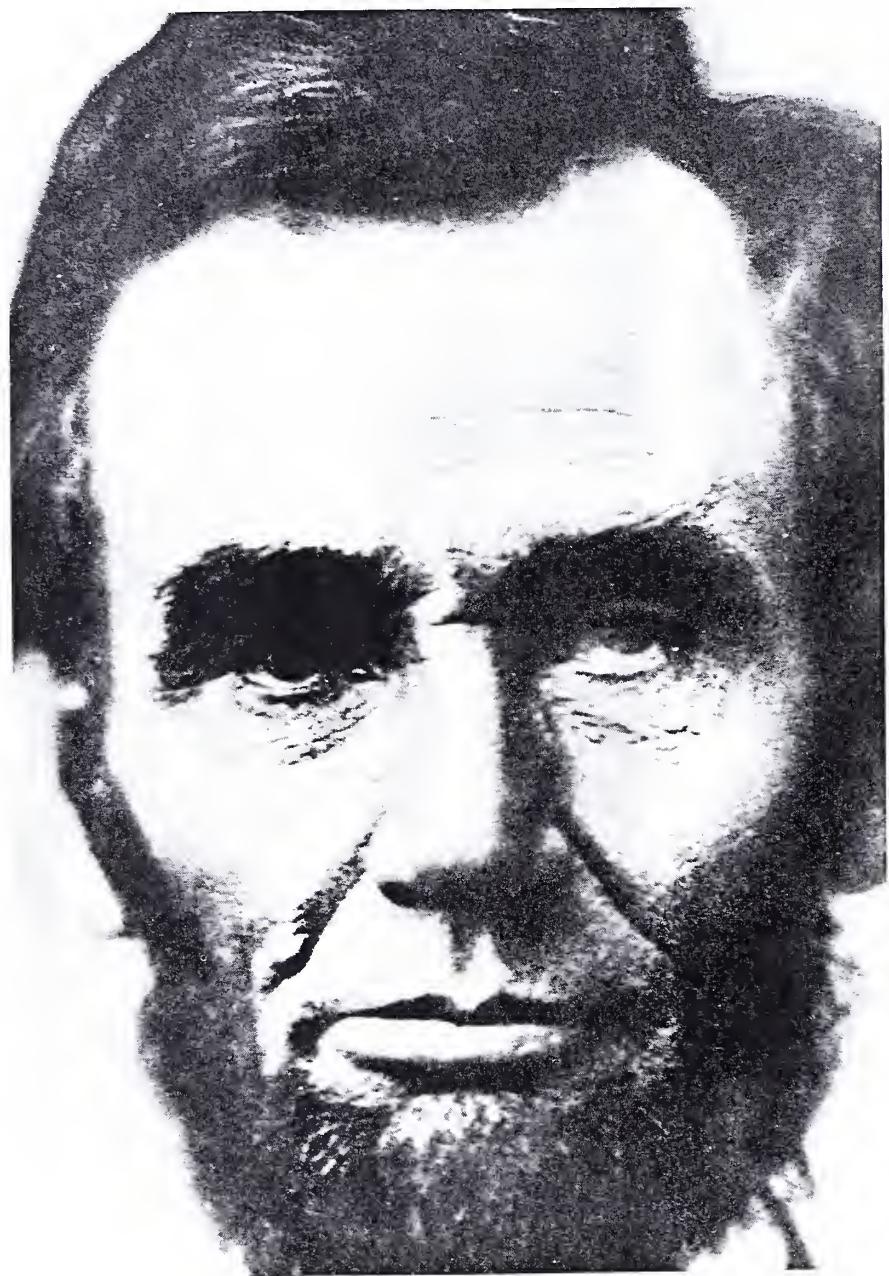
Lincoln wrote of himself as he saw himself. He wrote of his eyes being gray. They were, but they were more than just another pair of gray eyes. They were, and he could not have been aware of it, one of the most outstanding "marks or brands" on his face—or so those who have made themselves authorities on Lincoln's physiognomy have concluded.

Here, gleaned from the medical literature and biographical literature, are observations on Lincoln's eyes made by some of these authorities. Some of the observations have a ring of truth, and some are certainly touched with fancy.

First, in keeping with Abe's words, it has been recorded that Lincoln's eyes were small, gray, and deeply set. Abe could see nothing to admire in flowers, so one authority took this to mean that Lincoln was color-blind. Another authority, who had known Lincoln as a young man in New Salem, said that Lincoln's left eye looked queer at times, that it would suddenly get "crossed" and turn upward. Herndon, Lincoln's law partner, observed that the look of sadness on Lincoln's face was more or less accentuated by the peculiarity of the left eye, whose pupil had a tendency to turn or roll slightly toward the upper lid, while the right eye maintained a normal position. When Lincoln was engaged in the important Lincoln-Douglas debates, newspapermen wrote of his wildly rolling eye.

An ophthalmologist of the old school has expressed the view that Lincoln was the victim of hyperphoria or hypertropia, and that this uncorrected condition was directly responsible for Lincoln's melancholy nature.

In 1857, when Lincoln was 48, while shopping in a jewelry store he was persuaded by a friend to buy his first pair of reading glasses. He selected from



*Abraham Lincoln, 1809-1865. A photograph taken by Alexander Gardner in November, 1863.*

the counter a pair that cost  $37\frac{1}{2}$  cents. The strength of each lens was +6.75 D. This has been interpreted to mean that Lincoln might have had 4.25 D of hypermetropia at the age of 48. At the time Abe said he "kinder needed them."

Lincoln suffered from nervous attacks, eyestrain, headaches with nausea, and indigestion. His only form of relief was to place a cold compress over his eyes and lie down. These attacks were so severe and so frequent and apparently of such sudden onset that Lincoln found it necessary to furnish his law office, his home, and his White House office with couches that he could use at a moment's notice.

In 1914, two ophthalmologists examined a portrait of Lincoln and then made the following statements: That Lincoln had a heterophoria that was obvious when any good full-face photograph of him was studied; that it was amazing to discover that a real effort was necessary to look Honest Abe "straight in the eye." Lincoln's gaze was returned by the right eye of the photograph only, while the left eye was directed upward 8 to 10 degrees. Closer examination showed that his left eye was actually set higher than his right eye. Also, that his left eyebrow was usually more elevated than the right. This, it was felt, was possibly the result of an effort to keep the upper lid retracted so that the pupil of the left eye could be exposed. This tendency of the left eye to turn upward left uncovered more of the white surface of the sclera below the iris and gave a slightly staring effect on that side in strange disharmony with the appearance of the right eye.

In at least a third of the collected photographs of Lincoln, the signs mentioned above can be seen. In addition, in several of the photographs it can be seen that Lincoln had a pronounced and apparently habitual head tilt toward his right shoulder.

Was any of this familial? An old friend of the Lincolns recalled: "Willie (William Wallace Lincoln) was the true picture of Mr. Lincoln, in every way, even to carrying his head slightly inclined toward his left (? right?) shoulder. (This Mr. Lincoln always did while I knew him.)" The one good photograph of Willie does not bear out this observation. However, turning to photographs of Dennis Hanks, Lincoln's cousin, the head tilt toward the right shoulder is discernible. The eyes of Dennis, as with Abe, appear to be on different levels, and the left eyebrow is higher than the right. But, in the best photograph of Dennis, taken in his old age, the left eye has a strange, staring appearance as if it were no longer capable of performing the visual act. Photographs of Lincoln's oldest son, Robert, show that he suffered from a vertical strabismus.

A recent article advances the thesis that Lincoln suffered from Marfan syndrome. His strabismus, severe hyperopia, and the correction he required for his reading glasses were used to add considerable weight to the diagnosis. The author was able to produce evidence that the syndrome existed in the males of the Lincoln family, not in the Hanks family of Lincoln's mother. If this is so, then the facial and ocular appearance of Dennis Hanks may be little more than coincidence.

A complete study of Lincoln's eyes and vision was done in 1952 by a neurologist. While examining Lincoln's life mask and photographs, he found a

sharp depression with palpable edges on Lincoln's forehead just above his left eye. He also found facial asymmetries and a definite difference in the nervous tone of the muscles of the two sides of the face. This, he felt, indicated that Lincoln had suffered from a skull fracture and that there had been permanent brain impairment.

Support for this theory comes from the story that, when Lincoln was in his tenth year, he was kicked on the head by a horse, knocked unconscious for many hours, and was thought for a time to be dead. Lincoln recovered without medical assistance and seemed to have no apparent serious aftereffects. The neurologist believed this was the trauma that marked the beginning of Lincoln's ophthalmic and neurological problems.

From many of these observations the following conclusions have been drawn by others: Lincoln's right eye was dominant and was always used for general vision and no doubt entirely for reading. The tendency of the left eye to turn upward and outward produced more or less of an overlapping of visual images. The upward deviation of the left eye was certainly great enough to produce a lack of fusion of its image with that of the right eye. Lincoln seems to have followed the pattern set by others with a similar condition: he reacted attentively to the image of the right eye and ignored that of the left eye. This did not pose too great a problem except at such times as when Lincoln was under emotional strain or excitement. Probably in youth and maturity Lincoln was unable to focus both eyes for any length of time without volitional effort. The corrugations of Lincoln's brow and the crow's-feet at the corners of his eyes indicate that he habitually used auxiliary facial muscles to support the external muscles of the eyes in an attempt to obtain good vision.

Of all the stories of Lincoln and his eye problems, the most interesting one comes from Lincoln himself. Not only is it the most interesting but it is the most authentic because it comes from Lincoln's own lips:

It was just after my election in 1860, when the news had been coming in thick and fast all day, and there had been a great 'hurrah boys,' so that I was well tired out and went home to rest, throwing myself upon a lounge in my chamber. Opposite to where I lay, was a bureau with a swinging glass upon it; and looking into that glass, I saw myself reflected nearly at full length; but my face, I noticed, had two separate and distinct images, the tip of the nose of one being about three inches from the tip of the other. I was a little bothered, perhaps startled, and got up and looked in the glass, but the illusion vanished. On lying down again, I saw it a second time, plainer, if possible, than before, and then I noticed that one of the faces was a little paler—say five shades—than the other. I got up and the thing melted away, and I went off, and in the excitement of the hour forgot all about it—nearly, but not quite, for the thing would once in a while come up, and give me a little pang as though something uncomfortable had happened. When I got home, I told my wife about it, and a few days after I tried the experiment again, when, sure enough, the thing came back again; but I

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never succeeded in bringing the ghost back after that, though I once tried very industriously to show it to my wife, who was worried about it somewhat.

Any ophthalmologist could have given Lincoln a rational explanation of these episodes of diplopia, and Lincoln, being an intelligent man, would have accepted the explanation. But there were no ophthalmologists in Springfield in 1860. Therefore, it was necessary for Lincoln to provide his own explanation. To understand Lincoln's explanation, it is essential to examine first the man's background. He was the son of a shiftless frontier family. All of his youth he had known poverty or near poverty. His formal education had taken less than one calendar year. In the absolute sense of the phrase, he was a self-educated man. As in so many self-educated men, there were wide areas of knowledge of which he was ignorant. One of these areas was that of the physiology of vision.

Another point to consider is Lincoln's political position in 1860. A run-of-the-mill small town lawyer, with no family, no background, and no readily discernible qualities of leadership, he had been unexpectedly nominated and then elected to the Presidency of the United States. His election would precipitate the secession of the Southern states and the formation of the Confederacy. This raw, untried, almost unknown man had the responsibility of the future of the nation. Lincoln was aware of all this and he was aware that it was to be his awful task to lead the nation in a civil war.

At times he must have been a lost and lonely man. Sensitive, patient, compassionate, simple of heart, and humble, he sought for and found the support he needed. With the aid of his wife Mary, a woman whose true nature has so often been misunderstood, he took the simple episodes of diplopia he had experienced and turned them into a sign of divine approval of the course he knew it was his lot to take.

Although he was a deeply religious man, Lincoln never affiliated himself with any established faith. His religion was a strangely personal one compounded of fundamentalism, mysticism, and free thought. The union with his wife Mary was so close, intellectually and spiritually, that she shared his beliefs. Together they believed that Lincoln had a destiny, blessed by the divine, and that that destiny would lead him to the Presidency.

The terrible hour of the successful election came and God gave to Abraham a sign. Abraham saw his face, then he saw his face again, paler the second time. As with the prophets of old, God had clearly blessed Abraham and had shown him the path he must follow. Lincoln was to serve one term as President; then he was to be elected for a second term, but his divinely approved task was to be finished before the end of that second term. Death would then come. So it was that Abraham and Mary Lincoln explained Abe's illusion, his ghost, his episodes of diplopia.

Yes, a visit to an ophthalmologist would have given Abe the correct scientific explanation of his illusion. But his own explanation, derived from his own

peculiar, simple genius, allowed him to round out the framework of his personality with those elements of faith in himself that he so sorely needed. His "vision" needed no further correction.

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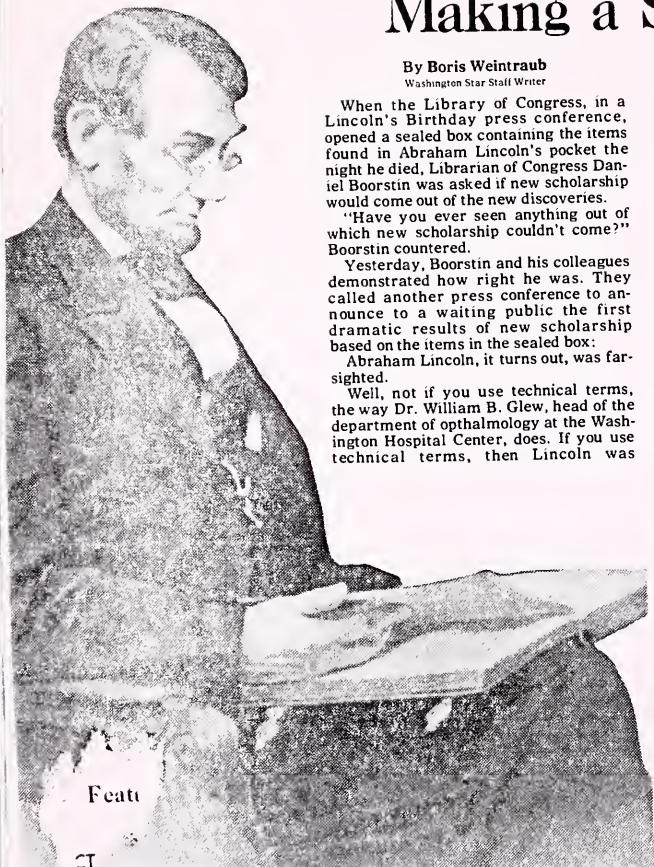
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By Boris Weintraub  
Washington Star Staff Writer

When the Library of Congress, in a Lincoln's Birthday press conference, opened a sealed box containing the items found in Abraham Lincoln's pocket the night he died, Librarian of Congress Daniel Boorstin was asked if new scholarship would come out of the new discoveries.

"Have you ever seen anything out of which new scholarship couldn't come?" Boorstin countered.

Yesterday, Boorstin and his colleagues demonstrated how right he was. They called another press conference to announce to a waiting public the first dramatic results of new scholarship based on the items in the sealed box:

Abraham Lincoln, it turns out, was farsighted.

Well, not if you use technical terms, the way Dr. William B. Glew, head of the department of ophthalmology at the Washington Hospital Center, does. If you use technical terms, then Lincoln was

"presbyopic," "Presby" as in old, "opic" as in eyes: Abraham Lincoln had old eyes.

The way this was discovered is that two pairs of eyeglasses were among the items in Lincoln's pocket. One was a pair of regular gold-framed spectacles in a pouch marked with the name of Franklin Opticians; the other was a pair of folding glasses.

Happily, Franklin Opticians still exists; it even has a \$2.50 never-cashed check from Lincoln dated 1864. Unhappily, Franklin Opticians does not have the records of Lincoln's purchase, so it could not tell what the prescription was.

Happily, once more, Dr. Glew read an editorial in The Washington Star commenting about Lincoln's glasses, and dispatched a letter to Boorstin on Feb. 17 offering to study the glasses and gauge the prescription. The Library, naturally, accepted with alacrity, and, yesterday, staged one of those only-in-Washington events at which Dr. Glew, in about two

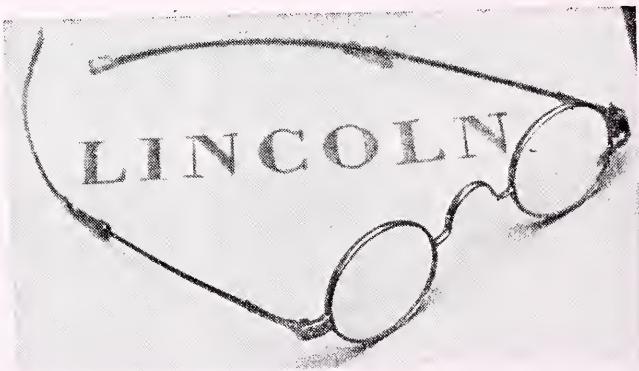
seconds, determined the proper numbers. The folding pair prescription, he said, is plus 2, the regular pair is plus 1:62.

"They were what most people would wear at the age of 56," the doctor estimated. "He apparently used them only for reading. Maybe he used them for reading the program at Ford's Theater. The folding pair would have enabled him to read the fine print."

Boorstin, his tongue planted so deeply in his historian's cheek that he could barely speak, asked if determining the prescription would "help us understand why he married that lady." Dr. Glew said regretfully that it probably would not.

"This will help us determine the eyeglass prescription for greatness in presidents," Boorstin said, his tongue still locked firmly in his cheek. "We will expect all future candidates to publish their prescriptions and to measure up to this standard of greatness."

Everyone had a good laugh and left.



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CT

# *Lincoln 'old' at 56, experts say*

From Wire Reports

Abraham Lincoln, who was 56 when he was assassinated, suffered from presbyopia, or "old eyesight," three experts have decided.

They analyzed two pair of eyeglasses found on Lincoln when he died. The glasses have been on display at the Library of Congress.

A regular pair of glasses has gold frames. There also is a folding pair.

Franklin & Co., which made the first pair, still has Lincoln's check for \$2.50. Frank Namisniak, the company's general manager, said the same glasses now would cost \$50 to \$60.

\* \* \*

....NEWS....NEWS....NEWS....from....  
American Optometric Association

7000 Chippewa Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63119  
314 832-5770

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE---

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, November 22, 1976---More than half of all Americans wear eyeglasses today but you would never know it by looking at U. S. Presidents.

With few exceptions, according to an article in the October, 1976, issue of the Journal of the American Optometric Association, U. S. Presidents have notoriously avoided appearing in public wearing spectacles, although all have had them.

There have been nearsighted presidents, such as Gerald Ford, Franklin Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt and Rutherford B. Hayes. There have been farsighted presidents, such as George Washington, John Adams, Abraham Lincoln, Harry Truman and President-elect Jimmy Carter. And then there was James Buchanan, who was nearsighted in one eye and farsighted in the other.

Seldom, however, have the American people seen their presidents with their spectacles in place.

Lincoln was embarrassed to wear his at first. Eisenhower's never fit well. Kennedy, like a good many more, was too vain, although he only needed his for protracted reading. Washington, like the rest of the early presidents, could not see well with his on anyway.

Of course, there were exceptions. Theodore Roosevelt and Harry Truman could not see without their eyeglasses. Wilson's spectacles fit well with his intellectual image which was perhaps fortunate, since retinal detachment had left him with badly impaired sight.

The lives of both T. Roosevelt and Truman were probably largely influenced by wearing glasses. Roosevelt, who began wearing glasses at age 13, turned from a sickly introvert to a raging extrovert.

Truman, who wore eyeglasses from age six, had to suffer and overcome the jeers of his playmates. To biographer Merle Miller (author of Plain Speaking), Truman said, "Of course, they (playmates) called me four-eyes and a lot of other things, too. That's hard on a boy. It makes him lonely, and it gives him an inferiority complex, and he has a hard time overcoming it.

"Of course we didn't know what an inferiority complex was in those days. But you can overcome it. You've got to fight for everything you do. You've got to be above those calling you names, and you've got to do more work than they do, but it usually comes out all right in the end."

Thomas Jefferson was the only U. S. President who wrote his own eyeglass prescriptions and it is evident from his written orders to his optician that he liked to have several different pairs handy.

Jefferson's penchant for several pairs of eyeglasses was shared by T. Roosevelt, who took 12 pairs of his favorite pince-nez with him to the Spanish-American war. President Ford has his military aide carry a spare for him. In addition, he keeps spares on hand at Camp David, Vail, Grand Rapids and in Air Force One.

Mr. Ford doesn't wear his glasses at press conferences because he considers himself well enough acquainted with the press corps that he can identify them without actually seeing what they are writing on their note pads. When it comes to tracking his tee shot on the golf course, however, he does wear his glasses.

The president who had the most vision problems was Lincoln. In addition to farsightedness, he had crossed eyes and an eye coordination problem, which sometimes caused double vision.

Cataracts affected John Adams, John Quincy Adams, James Madison and Andrew Jackson in their declining years. In the last year of his life, cataracts robbed John Adams of his ability to read.

Both Zachary Taylor and James Buchanan would have benefited greatly from today's optometric care. Taylor suffered from strabismus and he developed the compensating habit of partially closing his divergent eye when talking to somebody close at hand.

Buchanan, who suffered some eye muscle paralysis, had the unnatural habit of cocking his head sharply to one side when talking. His political enemies insisted this was due to an injury suffered when he tried to hang himself in the wake of his fiancee's sudden death in 1899.

Lyndon Johnson was the first U. S. President to wear contact lenses. Although many remember his difficulty with the lenses at a press conference, Johnson was able to wear them without trouble for two to three hours a day. He had to give them up after his gallbladder operation because he developed a nonspecific sensitivity to them.

While Johnson liked his eyeglass frames to fit very tight, Eisenhower did not. He was once counted pushing up his glasses 29 times with one hand and six times with both hands during one 1956

Reportedly, Eisenhower had a very difficult nose to fit, plus skin so hypersensitive that he could not tolerate either a snug fit or any of the pressure gadgets used to hold spectacles in place.

How much did U. S. Presidents pay for their eyeglasses? Washington paid \$75 for his engraved, imported silver frames at a time when he could buy a full course meal for 25 cents. Lincoln paid 37-1/2 cents for his first pair. Shortly after he took up residence in the White House, Eisenhower paid \$23.50 for a pair of spectacles made to the prescription written by doctors at Walter Reed Hospital's Ophthalmology and Optometry section.

Today, U. S. Presidents receive their vision care and eyeglasses or contact lenses from the government as a job benefit.

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# LINCOLN IN PHOTOGRAPHS

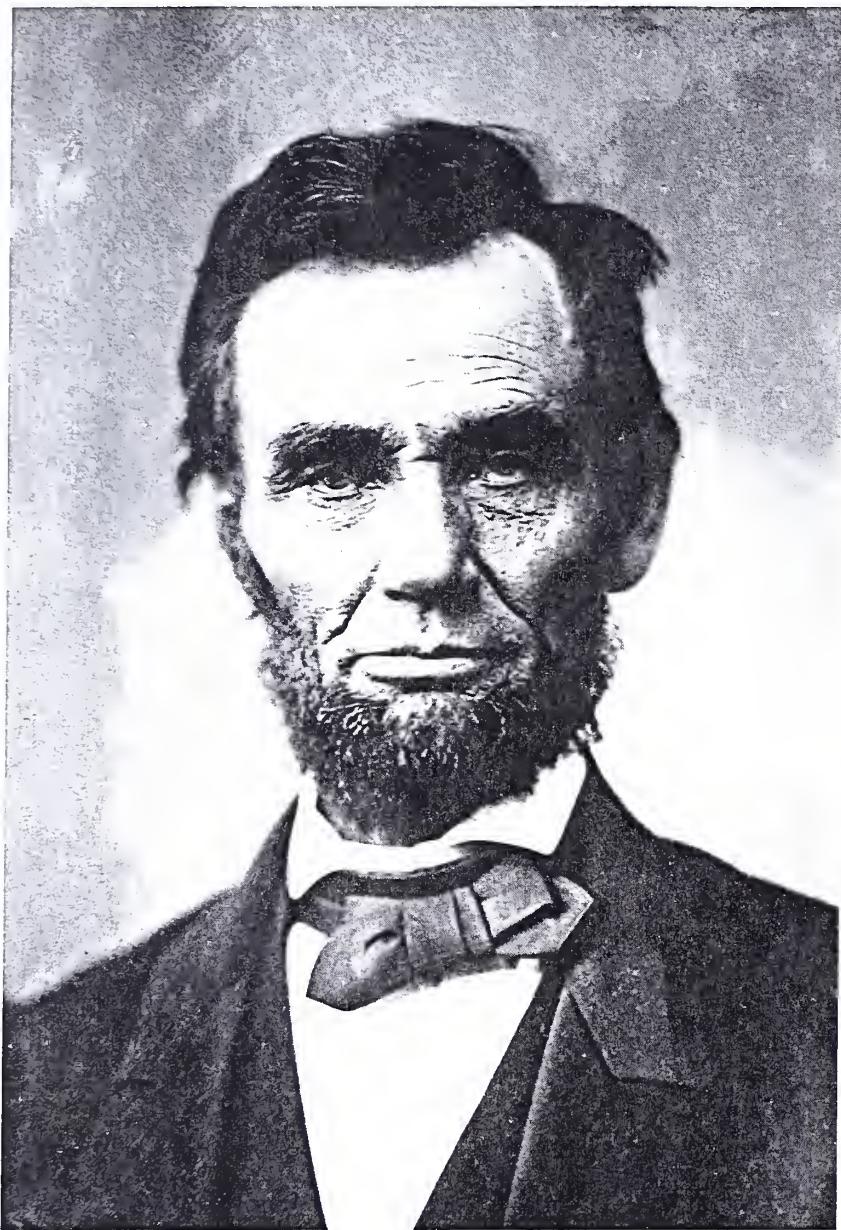
*An Album of Every Known Pose*

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By CHARLES HAMILTON  
and LLOYD OSTENDORF

*Morningside, Dayton, Ohio, 1985*

*His "Roving" Left Eye*



Head detail O-77

HIS "ROVING" LEFT EYE IS PLAINLY VISIBLE. The dramatic power of this camera study is enhanced by its intimacy. The firm but irregular set of the lips and the cavernous depth of the eye-sockets with the upward roll of the left eye add to its impact. Print from the Gardner gallery glass negative in the Ostendorf collection.



*Abraham Lincoln, 1809-1865. A photograph taken by Alexander Gardner in November, 1863.*

# An eye condition may have forced Lincoln to rely on his presidential staff

Sunday, April 23, 2006



Warren Winston of Pittsfield cites his photograph of Abraham Lincoln to support his theory that Lincoln had an eye condition called hypertropia. (H-W Photo/Steve Bohnstedt)

By Deborah Gertz Husar

Herald-Whig Staff Writer

PITTSFIELD, Ill. — A Pittsfield man believes an eye condition forced Abraham Lincoln to rely on trusted staff members during his presidency and contributed to his melancholy.

Warren Winston says Lincoln had hypertropia, a condition where the eyes do not line up together.

To prove it, Winston looks no further than a photo of the 16th president taken on Nov. 8, 1863. "Look at the left eye," Winston said. "You see all white. (The eye) is rotating upward and outward."

His curiosity piqued, and challenged at the time by a detached retina, Winston showed an enlargement of the photo to Pittsfield optometrist Dr. Tim Leahy who made the diagnosis.

"On the photo you could see one of his eyes was deviated, or not fixated, with the other. It was looking at a different spot," Leahy said.

"Typically, if somebody comes in now with that type of vertical misalignment, it's very fatiguing. They complain their eyes get tired with near work. They complain of double vision, headaches," Leahy said. "It's something that could be fixed, or helped quite a bit, but it would be something that would definitely cause a lot of problems especially with what he did."

Lincoln, both as a lawyer and as president, had no option to avoid work like reading which would have aggravated the eye condition.

The condition could have been constant or only an occasional problem aggravated by fatigue and stress.

"If it's there all the time, the brain eventually ignores it, but if you're tired or stressed out, you go from single vision to double vision. That's almost more annoying," Leahy said.

A published reference to Lincoln's eye problem appeared in "My Second Life," a book by Dr. Thomas Hall

Shasid. Shastid's father, John, and Lincoln were good friends, and Lincoln often visited the family home in Pittsfield.

Shastid wrote of a time his father watched Lincoln in court.

"When Lincoln closed his case with final arguments to the jury and turned to the audience his left eye was out of focus. The jury trial was an emotional experience for Lincoln," Winston said.

Today's treatment options didn't exist in Lincoln's time.

"Nowadays, if you find that kind of misalignment with a child you try to do vision therapy to strengthen the muscles to get them to line up more, muscle surgery to try to surgically realign the eye and glasses which can have what's called prism ground into the lenses to help the eyes or a combination," Leahy said.

With adults, Leahy usually tries glasses to correct the problem. "I researched all known eye glasses owned by Lincoln, including a trip to Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. All of his eye glasses were simple reading glasses with no prism," Winston said.

That left Lincoln battling the problem on his own — or at least with the help of friends.

"I know how difficult it was to function running a pharmacy with an eye problem," Winston said. "How could you function as president of the U.S. during the Civil War with an eye problem unless you had very trusted people around you helping you?"

Among the most trusted were his personal secretaries, John Nicolay and John Hay, who both lived in Pittsfield before joining Lincoln in the nation's capitol.

"If you look at the amount of work John Nicolay and John Hay took on for Lincoln during the Civil War, it makes sense why they were doing it, why they were so dedicated," Winston said. "He may have had a handicap that occasionally was very debilitating. They became President Lincoln's eyes."

Contact Staff Writer Deborah Gertz Husar at [dhusar@whig.com](mailto:dhusar@whig.com) or (217) 221-3379

From: "David Fleishman" <dflash50@comcast.net>  
To: <cvanhorn@acpl.info>  
Date: 3/2/2010 12:12 PM  
Subject: Abe Lincoln and his eyeglasses  
Attachments: Dear Clark Evans letter.doc

3/2/10

Cindy van Horn  
Registrar  
Allen County Public Library  
900 Library Plaza  
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Dear Cindy,

It was very nice speaking with you earlier today. I am excited to learn that your library has a folder related to President Lincoln's eyes and his eyeglasses.

Over the past six years I have created a totally educational website regarding the over 700 year history of the optical lens. This unique online museum and encyclopedia <http://www.antiquespectacles.com> has become substantial and it is having a positive impact worldwide. In the course of this research I have already assisted over 200 curators and all sorts of optical treasures are now coming to light.

Please look at the website overview

[http://www.antiquespectacles.com/about\\_us/overview/overview.htm](http://www.antiquespectacles.com/about_us/overview/overview.htm) and also the Table of Contents [http://www.antiquespectacles.com/site\\_map.htm](http://www.antiquespectacles.com/site_map.htm). This is a serious project filled with History, Science, Culture and Art. You might enjoy reviewing the list of participating Libraries  
<http://www.antiquespectacles.com/links/libraries.htm>.

The Library of Congress permitted me to evaluate the two pair of eyeglasses found in Lincoln's pockets the night of his assassination. My lengthy report to Clark Evans is attached for your review. Currently I am trying to document any available information associated with this subject in order to add a dedicated webpage later this year.

My goal would be to obtain photocopies of some of the articles available in that folder you reviewed with me over the phone. I also have much interest in the photo you described which shows an eyeglass chain worn by Lincoln as early as 1860. Eventually you would be recognized as a "Contributor" to this expanding project and a link can also be established to your Allen County Public Library.

Thank you for your time and interest.

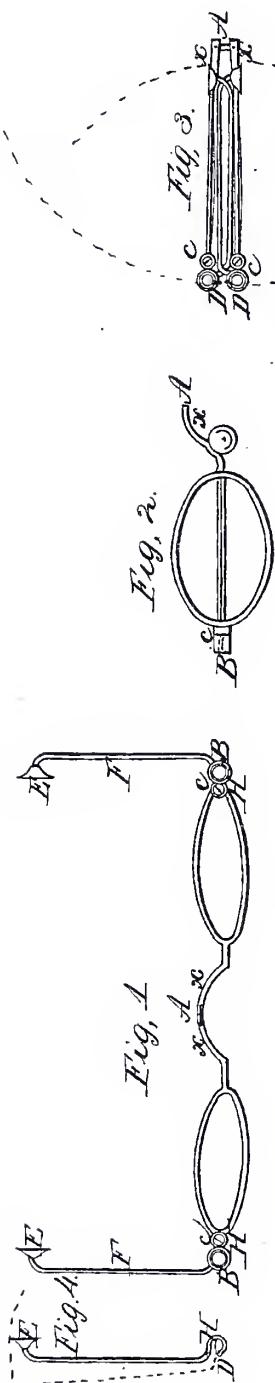
Sincerely,  
David Fleishman  
Retired ophthalmologist

David A. Fleishman, MD  
20 Kings Road  
Sharon, MA 02067

J. BURT & W. WILLARD.  
SPECTACLES.

No. 22,485.

Patented Jan. 4, 1859.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

J. BURT, OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, AND W. W. WILLARD, OF SYRACUSE, NEW YORK.

## CONSTRUCTION OF SPECTACLES.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 22,485, dated January 4, 1859.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, JOHN BURT, of the city of Hartford, county of Hartford, and State of Connecticut, and WILLIAM W. WILLARD, of the city of Syracuse, county of Onondaga, State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in the Mode of Constructing Spectacles; and we do hereby declare that the following is a correct description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

The nature of our invention, or improvement, consists in employing a link joint in the nose piece and constructing and arranging, short bows, with tension springs and holding cups or parts on the end of said bows, thereby constituting a compact, convenient, and desirable article for use and trade.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use our improvements we will proceed to describe their construction and operation.

The drawing Figure 1 is a view of the spectacles open for use; Fig. 2, is a view when closed; Fig. 3, is a side view when closed; Fig. 4, the short bow showing the form of the spring joint.

Our invention and improvements embrace several new and useful points in the manufacture of this new article of commerce—(viz.) neatness, elegance and compactness. The long and cumbrous temple bows are dispensed with, and short ones introduced, the whole being arranged with improved joints, and also with a folding or double joint in the center of the nose piece *x*, so constructed as to allow the folding together of the glass frame and the short temple bows and cups, forming one of the most convenient and snugly portable spectacles for use and for the pocket ever before invented or used.

The folding joint *A* in the center of the nose piece *x* is formed with a tenon and two

mortises, with a portion of the mortise left solid at the back part to prevent the same from going beyond the straight line when opened for use. The tenon of the joint *A* is of a suitable length to allow the two halves of the nose piece to be so far apart when folded up, to permit the temple bows and cups to lie between the glasses and frame in a compact manner.

The joints *B* connecting the temple bows and the end pieces of the glass frame, we make of flat metal or wire, wound around in a spiral manner *H* to work inside of the cylinder formed by the end piece *c*. In the spiral spring *H* at *D* we fix a stop so that when the bows are open to their extent it strikes the end of the slot in the end piece joint and the spiral spring cylinder checks the bows to cause the bow cups *E* to press gently but firmly to the temples back of the eyes to retain the same in their position.

The cups *E* are molded of a concave form attached to the ends of the short bows *F*, the concave part applies to the temples just back of the eyes with a pleasant, gentle but firm pressure assisted by the spiral cylindrical springs *D*, *H*.

What we claim therefore and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The employment of the link joint *A*, to the nose piece *x*, for the purpose as described, the construction and arrangement of the short bows *F*, spring *H*, cups *E*, or parts, substantially in the manner and for the purpose as set forth and described.

JOHN BURT.

WILLIAM W. WILLARD.

Witnesses to John Burt:

W<sup>M</sup>. VINE,  
CHAUNCEY COLTON.

Witnesses to W. W. Willard:

R. G. SLOAN,  
I. DEAN HAWLEY.

Dear Clark,

Most people would agree that Abraham Lincoln's eyeglasses at the Library of Congress are among the most important and famous optical objects in the world. At this time however, I believe one pair is not receiving the recognition and publicity that it deserves. In addition, unanswered questions remain regarding the other pair. I will try to clarify current thoughts by presenting some of the information gathered from my research in building [www.antiquespectacles.com](http://www.antiquespectacles.com). This email is also being copied to John Sellers who I contacted last week since he curated the recent exhibit of Lincoln artifacts in Chicago.

I visited the Newberry Library three weeks ago in order to see the Lincoln glasses. With the assistance of Rachel Bohlmann, I was given the special opportunity to evaluate them and then with your kind approval I also photographed them "for private use only". The information learned will soon be added to the online museum and encyclopedia mentioned above. Regarding any antique optical object the goal of this unique educational website is to only present accurate and scholarly material to the public.

The leather box containing the contents of Lincoln's pockets the night of his assassination passed down in the family and then finally was donated to the Library of Congress by Lincoln's granddaughter Mrs. Charles Isham back in October 1937. The box was then not opened until the spring of 1976. The prescription for the first pair of glasses was determined by Dr. William B. Glew and also Dr. Kenneth Meyers, Director of Optometry, Veterans Administration Department of Medicine and Surgery in Washington. The measurement was +1.62 each eye (though this was noted as +1.75 in another published article). These were for reading only and Lincoln appears in a Gardner photo from February 1865 where these glasses appear to be the ones held in his right hand. This may be the original albumin print (0-71C) in the Lloyd Ostendorf Collection.

Other historical information is known and has been widely circulated. This first pair (at least the case) was purchased from Franklin and Co. Opticians, Washington, DC on May 4, 1864 for \$2.50 since Lincoln's signed check #87 on a Riggs Bank account was never cashed. Until recently that check had been on display under glass at the optical shop located at 1700 K Street NW. The case is a very common style leather on cardboard. This is embossed with the name "FRANKLIN & CO OPTICIANS WASHINGTON DC". The glasses that have been associated with this case were made or sold by "J. Phillips" since that name appears on the proximal area of the right inner sidearm. Sometime later this same pair was apparently inscribed "A. Lincoln, presented by Ward H. Lamon.". This engraving is seen on the distal portion of that same right sidearm however the letters are upside down. Ward Hill Lamon (1828-1893) was the lawyer and friend of Abe Lincoln who was appointed Marshall for the City of Washington. He was also Lincoln's self-appointed personal bodyguard who unfortunately was not present in Washington at Ford's Theater the night of the assassination. These glasses are solid gold with an oval frame, a crank bridge, and adjustable band-slider sidearms that end in tear-shaped finials. The repair with string to the left hinge is quite obvious to any observer.

Key questions still remain from the above observations and these need further explanation:

(1) "J. Phillips", refers to the maker (or the retailer) and this is a fairly common name. I never saw the "J" myself because of the darkened room which held the display in Chicago. My good friend Alan McBrayer from Charlotte, North Carolina is the authority on American-made eyeglasses. I spoke with him last week and evidently Alan also looked at both pair of eyeglasses back about 14 years ago when he visited the Special Collections Room at the LOC. From a short distance in a darkened room that first initial cannot be confirmed. This maker Phillips should be researched further but we believe he was an American. The glasses look American to me and I have seen many hundreds of eyeglasses with that same basic style. It has been mentioned before in some articles that they could be French. So did they all come from the other side of the Atlantic? This is very doubtful in my opinion.

(2) Lincoln evidently purchased (some) glasses himself since he signed that check #87. But for this gold pair Lamon's name was evidently engraved on the right sidearm. If these were a gift from Lamon would they have been paid for initially by Lincoln? This is strange so another explanation may be that there was some other pair that was originally in the Franklin & Co case, and those glasses are actually missing. McBrayer has tried to track Lamon back to J. Phillips, but without luck. Alan did report to me that Lincoln wore "steel-bowed" spectacles at his second inauguration speech (March 4, 1865). At that time \$2.50 would buy some steel specs, but not gold spectacles. Alan's catalogs show higher prices during this period. This is important information and some of it will be sent directly to you from Alan.

(3) Until a few years ago Franklin & Co Opticians still had the \$2.50 check on display. This was described in an August 1988 New York Times article. However this company is no longer in business at that address. With the assistance of the attorney general's office last week I failed to learn any information regarding what ever happened to that company. That historically important check is currently missing. If it can somehow be located it would be advantageous for the LOC to obtain this as a donation because for the longer term this significant check signed by Lincoln himself should accompany the glasses (or at least the case) at your institution. Someone there in Washington should take the time to methodically track down that optical company and locate that check.

Everything just does not easily fall into place and with simple clear understanding. Dr Charles Letocha of York, PA is a well-respected optical historian. He has also studied all this information and he seems to agree that there is most likely another pair that is not present, a pair that Lincoln actually paid for himself. It is just so doubtful that Lincoln would write a check to pay for spectacles presented to him by a friend. Thus the actual Franklin & Co pair (likely steel) may not be the pair that Lincoln had when he was shot (gold). But the case may indeed be the one that came with the pair that he paid for himself. The case and these glasses were in his pocket at Ford's Theater so they must be Abe Lincoln's. I wonder if two pair are actually represented here and that second pair are missing. Recall that steel glasses were referred to in descriptions of Lincoln at his 2<sup>nd</sup> inauguration.

We can now focus attention on that other pair of eyeglasses at the LOC because they are actually much more important in my opinion. These fold at the nose bridge and have very short sides. They measured +2.00 when the box was opened at the LOC in 1976 so therefore these glasses also helped Lincoln with reading. This second pair are definitely Burt and Willard glasses dated Jan 4, 1859 (U.S. patent # 22,485)

[http://www.google.com/patents?id=3dVdAAAAEBAJ&printsec=drawing&zoom=4#v=o\\_nepage&q=&f=false](http://www.google.com/patents?id=3dVdAAAAEBAJ&printsec=drawing&zoom=4#v=o_nepage&q=&f=false)

and that date likely appears in very tiny marks on the back of the arched nose bridge. These glasses need to be inspected very closely because only three others in gold are known to exist and they all have that very subtle marked date. Alan McBrayer evaluated your glasses fourteen years ago and now I have evaluated them also. Even though we were each unable to actually handle the glasses with white gloves (perfectly understandable) we both looked at the rear of the nose bridge and we agree that to the experienced eye there does appear to be some tiny letters and numbers.

There are also two other examples of this style made of blued-steel (definitely without the date though) in the British Optical Association Collection in London. I have specifics about all of these if you require more detailed information. They are exceedingly rare and were individually made since I have now seen oval, rectangular, and octagonal frames among the six known

Your small fitted case for this second pair is original and it also is quite special. It actually is definitely your rarest object of all. It was described as silver in the original Kenneth Meyers article and from appearance in Chicago it may indeed be silver which has darkened from patina. However this should be checked with a magnet to see if it is instead steel. There is only one other similar case in all the world's collections that I have examined. That case is in the BOA Museum collection and it has the word "registered" marked on one side.

This second pair and its almost unique custom case are indeed world treasures and the Burt & Willard glasses definitely appear in the only known photo of Lincoln wearing eyeglasses. This original albumin print (140.02) was taken by Anthony Berger on Feb 4 1864 in Mathew Brady's studio in Washington. In an August 1863 photograph Alexander Gardner had him holding these same glasses in his lap. Should these now be considered his favorite pair? FYI: without a doubt these are one of the rarest of all American-made eyeglass frames.

Questions also come to mind regarding this pair with its ultra-rare case.

(1) First and foremost they should be examined again to determine if other information can be learned. I refer mostly to the date on the back of the nose bridge.

(2) Has any information ever surfaced as to when and where these Burt & Willard glasses were acquired by Lincoln? It would have been sometime between the patent date 1859 and the date of the Gardner photograph 1863.

(3) The case really is a wonderful artifact and it should be looked at closely again to see if there are any markings at all. The term "Registered" is on the only other example but that is in an English collection and that term is not typically seen on American products.

The small round lens cleaner found in Lincoln's pocket has also been described in the past. It has two soft cleaning pads on a hinged connecting leather strap. I must admit I have never seen another like this and I wonder if the symbol that is embossed on the top has ever been identified. This is certainly another neat special little artifact.

Finally no discussion regarding Lincoln glasses would be complete without mention of other specimens that have been floating around for a while and have been somehow attributed to our 16<sup>th</sup> president. I will comment on them individually, brief and to the point.

(1) At the Chicago History Museum - This pair was out of the Barrett Collection but they have no known provenance – they are from an earlier date (probably the 1830's with an English maker's name on one sidearm and they are definitely the wrong prescription (about +6.50, much too strong for Abe's eyes). We have seen printed in the literature that "Lincoln probably bought his first pair in May 1856 in Bloomington Illinois, for 37 ½ cents". Two of the articles mention the prescription was +6.75. If they refer to this pair existing at the Chicago History Museum I have already examined these glasses and proven that Lincoln could not have worn them.

(2) At the Lincoln Presidential Library – These are pince nez and I have a photo of them though it was "for personal use only". They were supposedly from a time just after Lincoln gave his Cooper Union Address on Feb 27, 1860. But they have an advanced nose bridge, one from the mid 1870s at the earliest. This of course is after Lincoln's assassination so they were not his.

(3) In the Tabor Collection – These are a very common last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century blued-steel style. They were handed down in the family and eventually were displayed at the Huntington Library in California. Lincoln historian Dr. Earl Hunt agreed with me that these were likely never worn by Abe, instead were likely associated instead with Robert Todd Lincoln. Also the Rx measurement of each lens has never even been checked.

(4) From the Lattimer Collection – These were also a common style (not steel) with measurements of 2.25 both eyes. My opinion was that the provenance was very weak since they had been given to another family (outside the Lincolns) and then were remembered about 40 years later, well after Lincoln had died. The individual who had recalled all this had not even become a Lincoln family member until after Lincoln had been assassinated. It just seems too remote in my opinion.

I hope you find all this information useful and perhaps it will stimulate further study. I would be happy to participate in the closer inspection of both pair in the future, once they return from their current tour of the US. Thank you again for allowing me to be involved in this important research.

Enjoy the upcoming Holiday Season.

Best wishes,  
David Fleishman



Curator, David A. Fleishman M.D.

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## Optical Treasures: Mistaken

Another group of objects have either been examined in person or noted in photographs from institutions and publications. These items have been mistaken or inaccurately described on their label (perhaps by accident) by those people who came before us. We can review questionable features or statements related to each of the examples in this group. This list does not include all of the known examples out there. Some were even pointed out by curators at their own well-known institutions. Certainly the comments presented do not in any way reflect on these wonderful institutions. Instead we are only speaking of the descriptions or dates presented.

A few publishers have also made some errors (discrepancies) in dating objects. Remarks here are not meant to tarnish their excellent long-standing reputations. In addition to this, a few websites present information which is apparently incorrect. Hopefully the comments below will be taken in a constructive manner by their webmasters. What is presented below can become a catalyst so we all become more accurate in our descriptions and dating. Future catalogues, guides, and websites will then reflect this improved understanding regarding proper terms used in descriptions and probable dates of use.

\*Please note that a few of the guides list dollar values. No comments will ever be made about these prices because that is not the focus of our website and it never will be.

We have all made mistakes in the past but now we have the fresh opportunity to become better educated through the process of sharing information. For example, perhaps eyeglasses are described in this manner "worn by Benjamin Franklin". This "established provenance" must be brought into question (scrutinized) if we know that the style of the frame first appeared AFTER Franklin had already died (in 1790). One can also make credible observations regarding so-called "worn by Abraham Lincoln" spectacles. This is because the strength of the two pair in his vest pockets the evening he was assassinated in April, 1865 have been measured. So, besides descriptions and dating, provenance information of optical objects can also undergo evaluation.

In addition it has been established that Ben Franklin specifically invented the bifocal. So it is amusing to occasionally see photos on EBay of glasses described as "Franklins" and they aren't even bifocals!

All the comments here are meant to be helpful and I hope you enjoy them. This should be a useful exercise for curators and collectors and other interested people. Write to me if you have information that can be shared (or corrected) regarding any of the examples mentioned below.

Benjamin Franklin bifocals.		June 1960 issue of <i>Spinning Wheel</i> magazine, in an article titled "Old Eyeglasses"	Described as having "rather flimsy frames".	Adjustable side arms basically appeared after 1800 so Franklin had been dead at least 15 years before these were probably made.
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Christopher Columbus spectacles		Historical Society of Old Newbury	"History of Relics" carte de visite of John N. Jaques of Newburyport. On the reverse it describes in detail each of the significant objects pictured with him. Notice the 'Christopher Columbus spectacles' on his head and also the 'Christopher Columbus spectacle' cases on the table.	Basically these references to Columbus are impossible. Other objects in the photo are apparently considered to be of questionable origin too. Notice it says "Holder of the Napoleon Button" – doesn't he mean the Santa Anna Button or the cane made from the desk in Napoleon's cell. There are at least several major errors present on this CDV.
Franz Schubert eyeglasses		Wien Museum, Vienna, Austria and on the Art Resource website	Round frame X bridge bifocals are shown	He died at the young age of 31, was nearsighted, and these are Bifocals. It cannot be correct.
Clergyman Edward Holyoke		Groton Historical Society	Goggles of the Clergyman who lived 1698-1769. He became President of Harvard College - 1737-1769	These have been evaluated by several authorities who suggest the most likely date is circa 1840 which is after Holyoke had died. It has therefore been suggested they belonged to a descendant of Dr. Edward Augustus Holyoke (who died in 1829), who was the son of President Holyoke.
Aaron Burr glasses		June 1960 issue of <i>Spinning Wheel</i> magazine, in an article titled "Old Eyeglasses".	"Removed and handed to his aid just before the duel"	Unable to locate these glasses or confirm the validity of the statement here
18 <sup>th</sup> century sunglasses		June 1960 issue of <i>Spinning Wheel</i> magazine, in an article titled "Old Eyeglasses"	Very thin sides with turnpin extensions. This was a hinge that was first patented in the mid 1860's	If the K bridge appeared around 1800 and frames basically became lighter after 1850 (because of mass production), these are certainly no earlier than 1860.
Abraham Lincoln		Decorative and Industrial Arts Collection, Chicago Historical Society	Silver frame eyeglasses which allegedly belonged to Lincoln, "but indisputable proof is not available"	These round frame spectacles were in common use around 1810-20, when Abe was about 10 years old. Also he was an emmetrope (not a +4.00 hyperope as stated in the October 1976 issue of the Journal of the

				which is presented on the other website. Apparently, no photos of Abe and Mary Lincoln together were ever made.
Detail of Currier and Ives lithograph		Shown on a commercial eyeglasses website	The "detail" shows Lincoln wearing eyeglasses but the magnified image remains fuzzy.	These are not glasses from a library in California which were shown in the newspaper article from Chicago. Lincoln's spectacles are not owned by the Huntington Library in San Marino. The pair displayed there in the past have not been proven to be Lincoln's. I wonder in particular if their strength was ever measured.
Matthew Brady photograph of Lincoln and son Robert Todd		Library of Congress	Wonderful and unique image of father and son	Notice the short sides of the eyeglasses
Detail (colored) of Matthew Brady photograph of Lincoln and son Robert Todd		Library of Congress	Notice the short side arms and the folding nose bridge. From Feb 9, 1864, he is wearing the + 2.00 folding gold-rimmed pair	<p>This exact pair was discovered in one of his pockets after his assassination. Along with the other contents of his pockets, they were placed in a locked leather box which was held by the family until October 1937. At that time it was given by Lincoln's granddaughter Mrs. Charles Isham to the Library of Congress. It remained in their vaults until finally being opened in the spring of 1976 by the librarian of Congress at that time, Dr. Daniel Boorstin.</p> <p>Another pair was part of the Dr. John Lattimer Collection. The information attached to that example is that it was "passed down in a family related to Lincoln". Is that strong provenance? Experts including myself would probably give a negative response to this question. No one seems to have knowledge of how Mary Harlan originally obtained</p>

				those glasses in the first place, since she married into the Lincoln family after the President had already been assassinated.
"The newspaper article on Lincoln's stovepipe hat and eyeglasses. The frames show clearly in this photo".		Shown on a commercial eyeglasses website	These are composed of thin steel wire with a scroll bridge and oval lenses.	The problem is these were claimed to have been used by Lincoln but there is no evidence to support this and the specific strength of the lenses remains unknown. An inexpensive style, these were mass-produced during the later part of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century. I doubt they would have been used by Lincoln.
George Washington Spectacles		Mount Vernon This pair was actually stolen from the desk in the Mansion study 12/25/42 and the case was stolen seven years later.	Oval frame, pin-in-slot adjustable side arms, cardboard case with damage.	This style was commonly used in the 1820's – 30's and are coin silver. Washington died in 1799 so it is not possible that he could have worn these.
		Mount Vernon The donor found an envelope on which was written "These glasses belong to the Father of his Country".	Thin wire, probably blued steel, oval frame scroll bridge, circa 1870 – 1890.	This could not have been worn by the first president.
		From the Better Vision Institute Poster "The History of Eyeglasses"	Only a label was attached suggesting that perhaps George wore these glasses with "crude" workmanship,	This is "slim testimony" and with two friends who were silversmiths, it is doubtful the President would have worn a steel pair. He was an aristocrat.
"Circa 1650 - steel frame with short temples with loops".		National Heritage Museum	Steel oval frame, C Bridge, temple sides	Oval frame makes it very late 18th century and the temple sides make it after 1730. My estimate is 1790s, therefore off by about 140 years.
Spectacles and case on an otherwise impressive poster with the title "Items which may have been found on a Georgian Gentleman's Desk".		The case and spectacles were on loan to the Number One Royal Crest Museum, Bath, United Kingdom. They were included on their quite informative poster.	Pair of 18 <sup>th</sup> century spectacles with silver frames and magnifying glasses in polished steel case engraved "Francis Gibson 1760"	The engraved case is wonderful but the spectacles probably did not originate with it. They are more likely circa 1790 – 1800 and it appears they have a mark on the right sidearm which could help identify their maker, his location, and their date.



Eyes

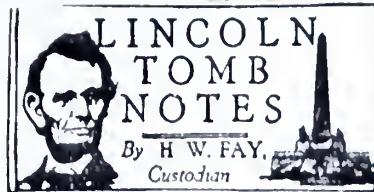
large, almond-shaped, brown eyes well

placed in soft, yellow

yellowish-green skin

yellowish-green

yellowish-green



There were about 1,100 callers yesterday.

Jessie B. Monroe and party of Kalamazoo, Mich., pulled the latch-string at 6:50 a. m. and stayed to hear answers to their many inquiries.

Mr. and Mrs. David R. Webster of Dayton, O., were morning callers. An artist, C. W. Nickurn, made a painting of Lincoln. He had made a sketch when he visited Dayton, but the artist followed the photo made by Brody at the time of the Cooper Union address. The artist died and the painting got lost but was found in a junk shop in one of the gulf states. The dealer cleaned the picture, saw its value and solicited Dayton Lincoln enthusiasts to make a purchase, \$1,000 being the price asked. The Dayton committee had 1,000 8x10 three color reproductions of the painting and sold them at \$1 each to local people interested and with the funds bought the painting which has since been on exhibition in one of the public galleries of Dayton. At the time the campaign was on, the committee sent samples of the reproduction to the writer for identification and criticism.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin D. Davis of R. R. 7, Decatur, were interested guests. Mr. Davis has conducted more Lincoln and Hanks research in Macon county than any living citizen. Recently in going through the Macon county records he found a signature of Lincoln on a petition in 1830. It is believed that this is the only one of that year he signed in that county when he resided there.

Amos Richardson, of the secretary of state's office, brought out W. A. Wilde, of Beverly Hills, Calif., who directed the film "Lincoln In Illinois."

H. G. Wilms, guide at New Salem state park, spent two hours inspecting the collection at Lincoln's tomb.

Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Eyster brought out their guest from Peoria.

We have received two letters the last week, one from Chicago and the other from Galesburg, enquiring about Lincoln's spectacles. The Chicago correspondent has a collection of 100 spectacles that have belonged to various noted people and craves a Lincoln. We have a list of 150 articles owned by Lincoln, many now in the collection here but in the list there is no reference to Lincoln's spectacles.

Wayne V. Harsha of the Ohio State university department of journalism and Don W. Sears of Chillicothe, O., called. The first mentioned was editor of the National Printer Journalist for H. L. Williamson of this city. While in Springfield he often used the Lincoln collection here.

M. S. McKinnie of this city was an afternoon caller and went the rounds.

*Meeting of minds*

## Abe Lincoln's Vision

by the editor

It happened on May 28, 1856, in Bloomington, Ill. Henry Clay Whitney, a fellow lawyer who had gone with Lincoln to participate in a political convention, told it this way 30 years later:

"After dinner Lincoln proposed that I should go with him to the . . . depot to see who might arrive from Chicago. On our way, Lincoln stopped at a very diminutive jewelry shop where he bought his first pair of spectacles for 37½ cents, as I now recall it. He then remarked to me that he had got to be 47 years old and 'kinder needed them.'"

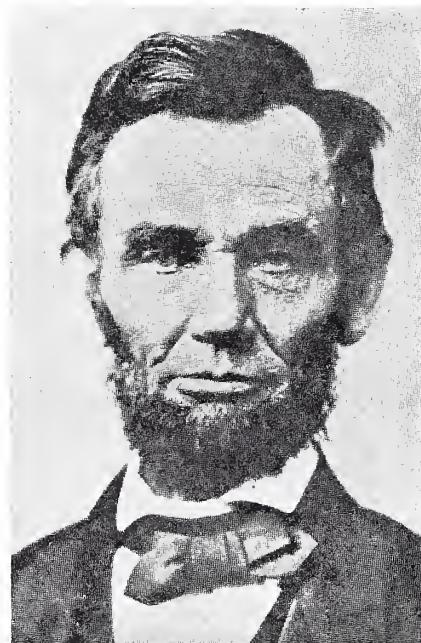
Two years later, while addressing a crowd from the balcony of the old Tremont Hotel in Chicago, Lincoln remarked that "reading from speeches is a very tedious business, particularly for an old man who has to put on spectacles, and more so if the man is so tall that he has to bend over to the light." He wore glasses only when reading, however.

On May 4, 1864, he purchased another pair from Franklin Optical Company of Washington, D. C., this time paying \$2.50 to Jules Heilprin, who kept the check as a souvenir.

Lincoln's eyes were small, gray, and deeply set. According to Charles Snyder, in the book *Our Ophthalmic Heritage* (Boston, Little Brown and Co., 1967), he was possibly color blind. Snyder mentions also that the pupil of Lincoln's left eye tended "to turn or roll slightly toward the upper lid, while the right eye maintained normal position." This defect was possibly the cause of his severe headaches, which were sometimes accompanied with nausea and indigestion. When these attacks came, he usually lay on a couch with a cold compress over his eyes.

Lincoln's eyes were often used to read the Bible. Of this Book he said, "I decided a long time ago that it was less difficult to believe that the Bible was what it claimed to be than to disbelieve it. It is a good book for us to obey—it contains the Ten Commandments, the Golden Rule, and many other rules which ought to be followed."

Perhaps this faith gave him the vision to see a reunited country through the dark days of the Civil War.



# EYES OF LINCOLN

By TED ARDEN

As I stand gazing upon the  
Portrait of President Lincoln  
I am moved by the sad  
Compelling gray eyes.

The eyes of Lincoln soft and  
Wet washed with the loving  
Tears of pity and compassion.

What the eyes of Lincoln had seen!

The eyes of Lincoln saw the  
Mourning black-shawled  
Mothers of Washington.

The eyes of Lincoln saw the  
Wooden coffins of men  
Coming up from Fredericksburg  
Chancellorsville and Gettysburg.

The eyes of Lincoln read  
"Four score and seven years."

The eyes of Lincoln saw the  
Union reunited and the  
Black slave freed.

The eyes of Lincoln, washed with  
Tears, move on and are gone.  
Who can say what the eyes  
Of Lincoln see now as I  
Stand gazing upon the  
Portrait of President Lincoln.

